

MACAULAY'S TREATMENT OF IRISH
HISTORY 223

In June 1690 William III landed in Ireland, and on July 1 the battle of the Boyne took place. One of Macaulay's authorities for the history of the campaign is Dumont de Bostaquet, the Huguenot officer whose memoirs he saw in manuscript. These were published in Paris in 1864. Macaulay regretted the disappearance of the despatch on the battle of the Boyne which Lauzun, who commanded the French auxiliaries serving in James's army, must have written to Louvois.¹ That despatch and several other letters from Lauzun were discovered by Ranke and printed in the sixth volume of his History. According to the English Jacobite, John Stevens, the Irish infantry behaved extremely badly at the Boyne though some of the Irish horse fought extremely well, and this statement is confirmed by the evidence of various French officers quoted by Macaulay and by Lauzun's despatch. Another eyewitness of the battle was George Clarke, Judge Advocate General in William's army. Thirteen volumes of Clarke's official correspondence during the war are preserved in the library of Trinity College, Dublin, and Macaulay made some use of them, but he did not know the brief and extremely interesting autobiography of Clarke printed by the Historical Manuscripts Commission.² Clarke describes with singular vividness the opening of the

battle.

Next morningj about eight or nine o'clock,
our cannon
began to fire upon two houses, with yards
walled about, that
stood on each side the road on the other side
the Boyne just
over against the ford where the Guards were
to pass. The
enemy had posted some foot in those houses,
whose fire was
silenced by our cannon, but as the Guards
were got almost
through the water they rose up from behind
the walls and

¹IV, 1881 (xvi).

²Leyborne-Popham MSS. (1899), pp. 259-89.